Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) Engine compartment partitioning layer (7) for use in an engine compartment (1), wherein said partitioning layer (7) partitions the engine compartment (1) and forms at least one acoustically effective cavity (8) within the closed engine compartment (1).

2. (Original) Partitioning layer (7) according to claim 1, wherein said partitioning layer (7) consists of a carrier layer (12) and a sound absorbent layer (13).

3. (Original) Partitioning layer (7) according to claim 2, wherein said carrier layer (12) comprises a compressed phenolic resinous nonwoven layer.

4. (Currently amended) Partitioning layer (7) according to claim 3, wherein said carrier layer (12) is provided with a first water and oil repellent layer (14)~~, in particular a textile scrim or felt layer, on the engine hood side~~.

5. (Currently amended) Partitioning layer (7) according to claim 2, wherein the sound absorbent layer (13) comprises a slightly compressed phenolic resinous layer~~, in particular a textile scrim or felt layer~~.

6. (Currently amended) Partitioning layer (7) according to claim 5, wherein the sound absorbent

layer (13) is provided with a second water and oil repellent layer (15)~~, in particular a textile scrim or felt layer, toward the engine compartment floor or the ground~~.

7. (Previously presented) Partitioning layer (7) according to one of claim 1, wherein said partitioning layer (7) is made of several joinable and mutually complementary sections.

8. (Previously presented) Partitioning layer (7) according to one of claim 1, wherein said partitioning layer (7) is provided with at least one acoustically effective aperture (16).

9. (Currently amended) A method of using ~~Use of~~ an engine compartment partitioning layer (7) ~~according to claim 1~~ comprising

using within an engine compartment (1) a partitioning layer (7) to partition the engine compartment (1) and

forming at least one acoustically effective cavity (8) within the partitioned engine compartment (1).

10. (Currently amended) A method of using ~~Use of~~ several engine compartment partitioning layers (7, 9) ~~according to claim 1~~ comprising

forming within an engine compartment (1) ~~for forming~~ a plurality of acoustically effective cavities (8, 10) within an engine compartment (1).

11. (Currently amended) A method of using ~~Use of~~ several engine compartment partitioning layers (7, 9) according to claim 9, wherein said cavities (8, 10) have differing volumes.

12. (New) Partitioning layer (7) according to claim 4, wherein said first water and oil repellent layer is a textile scrim or felt layer, on the engine hood side.

13. (New) Partitioning layer (7) according to claim 5, wherein said slightly compressed phenolic resinous layer is a textile scrim or felt layer.

14. (New) Partitioning layer (7) according to claim 13, wherein said second water and oil repellent layer (15) is a textile scrim or felt layer, toward the engine compartment floor or the ground.

15. (New) Partitioning layer (7) according to claim 6, wherein said second water and oil repellent layer (15) is a textile scrim or felt layer, toward the engine compartment floor or the ground.